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Inside Wallops

NASA Successfully Launches the ICESAT/CHIPS Satellite

NASA's Ice, Cloud and Land Elevation satellite (ICESat) and Cosmic Hot Interstellar Spectrometer (CHIPS) satellite lifted off from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif at 4:45 p.m. PST aboard Boeing's Delta II rocket on January 12. Separation of the ICESat spacecraft occurred 64 minutes after launch at 5:49 p.m. PST. Initial contact with ICESat was made 75 minutes after launch at 6 p.m. PST as the spacecraft passed over the Svalbard Ground Station in Norway.



ICESat/CHIPS liftoff.

NASA/Bill Ingalls

The CHIPS spacecraft separated from the launch vehicle 83 minutes after launch at 6:08 p.m. PST. Initial contact with CHIPS was made 98 minutes after launch at 6:23 p.m. PST as the spacecraft passed over the University of California, Berkeley.

"The Delta vehicle gave us a great ride! The ICESat spacecraft was right where we expected and is performing great. The whole team is thrilled to be having such a wonderful start to our mission" said Jim Watzin, the ICESat Project Manager at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.

Over the next few days the ICESat spacecraft will gradually be despun and placed into a safe stable attitude. Within two weeks the onboard propulsion system will gradually tune the orbit. Once in its final orbital position, ICESat will be approximately 373 miles above the Earth.

ICESat is the latest in a series of Earth Observing System spacecraft, following the Terra satellite launched in December 1999, and the Aqua satellite launched in May 2002. The primary role of ICESat is to quantify ice sheet growth or retreat and to thereby answer questions concerning many related aspects of the Earth's climate system, including global climate change and changes in sea level.

Ball Aerospace and Technologies Corporation (Ball) in Boulder, Colorado built the ICESat spacecraft. The Earth Science Data and Information System at NASA Goddard will provide space and ground network support and the University of Colorado's Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics will team with Ball to provide mission operations and flight dynamics support. The GLAS and ICESat data will be initially processed at the ICESat Investigator-led Processing System with support from the University of Texas, Center for Space Research. The mission data will be distributed and archived by the National Snow and Ice Data Center.

Goddard manages the Earth Observing System for NASA's Earth Science Enterprise. More information about the ICESat program is available at: <http://ICESat.nasa.gov>

CHIPS will study the gas and dust in space, which are believed to be the basic building blocks of stars and planets. The CHIPS satellite, the first NASA University-Class Explorer (UNEX) mission, weighs 131 pounds and is the size of a large suitcase. It will orbit above the Earth at about 350 miles altitude and is expected to operate for one year.

CHIPS is sponsored by the Office of Space Science, NASA Headquarters. The project is managed at the NASA Wallops Flight Facility and Goddard through the NASA Explorers Program.

The CHIPS instrument was built at the Space Science Laboratory of the University of California, Berkeley, and SpaceDev, Inc. of Poway, Calif., built the spacecraft bus. For detailed information about CHIPS and its mission, go to: <http://chips.ssl.berkeley.edu>

STS-107 Mission Includes Shuttle Small Payloads

After a year's delay, Space Shuttle Columbia, STS-107, lifted off from the Kennedy Space Center on January 16.

Columbia's 16-day mission is dedicated to a mixed complement of competitively selected and commercially sponsored research in the space, life and physical sciences. An international crew of seven, including the first Israeli astronaut, will work 24 hours a day in two alternating shifts to carry out experiments in the areas of astronaut health and safety; advanced technology development; and Earth and space science.

NASA's Shuttle Small Payloads Project Office (SSPP) at Wallops and Greenbelt is directly involved with this mission through the Fast Reaction Experiments Enabling Science, Technology, Applications and Research (FREESTAR) payload that includes six separate experiments mounted on a crossbay Hitchhiker Multipurpose Equipment Support Structure. The six experiments will include the Mediterranean Israeli Dust Experiment (MEIDEX) managed by the Israeli Space Agency and Tel-Aviv University.

Information on FREESTAR can be found at: <http://sspp.gsfc.nasa.gov/hh/freestar/overview.html>

Wallops Shorts.....

In the Field

Wallops employees are in Alaska supporting sounding rocket launch operations from the Poker Flat Research Range and in Sweden supporting sounding rocket launches from Esrange.

A team from the Aircraft Office is in Japan with the P-3 Orion aircraft supporting operations for NASA's Earth Science satellite mission, Aqua.

Another Wallops team is in Australia preparing for the launch of the Ultra-long Duration Balloon from Alice Springs.

Personnel in the Shuttle Small Payloads Project Office have been at the Kennedy Space Center and Johnson Space Center for the launch and mission operations of Space Shuttle STS-107.

On the Road

Ed Parrott, Public Affairs Office, took part in the Career Day event held at Stephen Decatur Middle School on January 16.

Doug Voss Receives Navy Award

Congratulations to Doug Voss, Range and Mission Management Office, on receiving an award from Mike Jump, Director of Combat Systems, Navy Surface Combat Systems Center.

It reads: *“This award is for going above and beyond in support of last minute requirements for Navy target support during June 2002. During the June events, the Navy requirements for target safety changed dramatically requiring extraordinary effort on the part of NASA range safety to make the events happen. Doug Voss was the ‘Go To’ guy.”* Voss worked in the Wallops Safety Office during this time.

Dave Detwiler, Jr. Named Apprentice of the Year

The Virginia Apprenticeship Council recently named Dave Detwiler, Jr., Northrop Grumman, the Outstanding Apprentice of the Year.

Detwiler has worked with Northrop Grumman on NASA’s Sounding Rocket Operations Contract (NSROC) since 1999. He works with a journeymen machinists to transform rough stock into components for the different rockets launched by NSROC for NASA Wallops Flight Facility.

Zeb Barfield, Jr., supervisor of mechanical fabrication for NSROC, nominated Detwiler and noted that the nominations were not limited to machinists. The nominations included all areas of apprenticeships in Virginia. The Council’s selection of Detwiler was a unanimous decision.

**Dart Night
Every Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.**

**Pool Night
Every Thursday at 5:30 p.m.**



At the Rocket Club. Sponsored by the Wallops Exchange and Morale Association and the Morale Activities Committee. There is a \$5 entry fee.

Engineers Week

YOU. . . are invited to make a difference!

Kids can be engineers and technicians too, if they are encouraged. Join us for Engineers Week, February 18-22, 2003.

For registration, resources and assistance, review the NEW Engineers Week web-site at: <http://education.gsfc.nasa.gov/eweek/engineers/> Contact Ed Parrott on x1681 for further information or to volunteer. The students are ready. . .

Preventing Weather Related Slips, Trips, and Falls

Winter weather has arrived, creating snowy and icy conditions and leaving many hazards.

Falls are a leading cause of injury in the work place, often resulting in disabling injuries.



Wallops is no exception. Slips, trips, and falls are among our most common type of accidents. Winter weather conditions typically bring an increase in these incidents.

Here are some tips to help avoid slips, trips, and falls:

- If the Facility is closed, due to weather conditions, non-essential employees are asked not to enter the Facility until the announced opening time so that road crews may complete snow and ice removal.
- Put safety before fashion by wearing shoes or boots with slip resistant soles and carry your work shoes with you.
- Remove as much snow as possible from your shoes before entering a building.
- Shorten your stride and watch for wet floors.
- Walk, don’t run.
- Walk with your arms by your sides for balance.
- Bending your knees a little and talking slower steps can greatly reduce your chances of falling.
- Watch where you’re walking.
- Use handrails on stairs.
- Long, loose pant cuffs present a tripping hazard.
- Use designated sidewalks and walkways.
- Remember-streets and walkways may be slippery. Don’t carry heavy packages that may impair your sight and balance.

· Pay extra attention walking from surface to surface.

If you should fall, you can reduce your chance of injury by falling the right way.

Relax: Try not to stiffen and tense your muscles.

Absorb: Let your arms and legs give like a spring to absorb the impact of the fall.

Roll: Move with the direction of the fall to minimize injury.

Wallops In the News

The Public Affairs Office maintains a “scrapbook” of articles about Wallops. The following have recently been added. To receive an article in its entirety call Betty Flowers on x1584.

Eastern Shore News
“Space Flight Academy 2003 Camp Plans Set”

SpaceNews
“NASA Tests Balloon-Lofted Observatory to Study Black Holes”

The following media had articles or news spots about the ICESat/CHIPS launch from Vandenberg:
Reuters English News Service
CNN
San Diego Union-Tribune
Aerospace Daily
Spaceflight Now
National Public Radio
KCLU Radio, Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara Tribune

Centennial of Flight Highlights

60 years ago
January 11, 1943 – Franklin D. Roosevelt first President of the United States to fly while in office

55 years ago
January 30, 1948 – Orville Wright dies

25 years ago
January 1978 - Soviets complete first three-spacecraft docking

Applications for Student Summer Programs

Applications and information for two student summer programs – NASA SHARP and the National Space Club Scholars Program – are available in the Public Affairs Office, Building F-6, Room 108. The programs are for high school students interested in careers in science and engineering.

NASA SHARP and the National Space Club Scholars Program are conducted at NASA Wallops Flight Facility and are open to high school students within the local commuting area.

The application deadline for NASA SHARP is February 10 and the deadline for the National Space Club Scholars Program is February 26.

For more information call Ed Parrott on x1681.

Inside Wallops is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Wallops Office of Public Affairs, Extension 1584, in the interest of Wallops employees. Recent and past issues of *Inside Wallops* also may be found on the NASA Wallops Flight Facility homepage: www.wff.nasa.gov

Editor

Betty Flowers